

85TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. J. RES. 351**

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 6, 1957

Mr. NIMTZ introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

**JOINT RESOLUTION**

To establish a Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission.

Whereas the year 1959 marks the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln on February 12, 1809; and

Whereas Abraham Lincoln served as the sixteenth President of the United States; and

Whereas his life and ideals played an important part in the history of the United States during a critical period of its history; and

Whereas his spoken and written words and his philosophy of government have continued to have influence in our Government and in our daily way of life; and

Whereas the United States observed with appropriate ceremonies the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln in 1909; and

Whereas the interest in, and respect for, Abraham Lincoln is demonstrated by over one million eight hundred and fifty thousand people from all parts of the Nation visiting the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, District of Columbia, during the year 1956, making it the most visited memorial in the world; and

Whereas it is appropriate that his ideals and accomplishments be reemphasized and be given wider public knowledge on the occasion of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of his birth; and

Whereas it is incumbent upon us as a nation to provide for the proper observance of the birth of this great man who has continued to be in a force in our history: Therefore be it

1       *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*  
2       *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3       That (a) in order to provide for appropriate and nationwide  
4       observances and the coordination of ceremonies, there is  
5       hereby established a commission to be known as the Lincoln  
6       Sesquicentennial Commission, hereafter in this Act referred  
7       to as the "Commission", which shall be composed of twenty-  
8       eight members, as follows:

9       (1) The President of the United States, President of  
10      the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives,  
11      who shall be ex officio members of the Commission;

12      (2) Six Members of the Senate to be appointed by the  
13      President of the Senate;

1       (3) Six Members of the House of Representatives to be  
2 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

3       (4) Twelve members to be appointed by the President  
4 of the United States; and

5       (5) One member from the Department of the Interior  
6 who shall be the director of the National Park Service or  
7 his representative.

8       (b) The Director of the National Park Service shall  
9 call the first meeting for the purpose of electing a Chairman.  
10 The Commission, at its discretion, may appoint honorary  
11 members, and may establish an Advisory Council to assist  
12 it in its work.

13       (c) Appointments provided for in this section, with the  
14 exception of honorary members, shall be made within ninety  
15 days from the date of enactment of this resolution. Vacancies  
16 shall be filled in the same manner as the original appoint-  
17 ments were made.

18       SEC. 2. It shall be the duty of the Commission to pre-  
19 pare an overall program to include specific plans for com-  
20 memorating the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the  
21 birth of Abraham Lincoln. In preparing its plans and  
22 programs, the Commission shall give due consideration to  
23 any similar and related plans advanced by State, civic,  
24 patriotic, hereditary, and historical bodies, and may desig-

1 nate special committees with representation from the above-  
2 mentioned bodies to plan and conduct specific ceremonies.  
3 The Commission may give suitable recognition such as the  
4 award of medals and certificates or by other appropriate  
5 means to persons and organizations for outstanding accom-  
6 plishments in preserving the writings and ideals of Abraham  
7 Lincoln, or historical locations connected with his life.

8       SEC. 3. The President of the United States is authorized  
9 and requested to issue proclamations inviting the people of  
10 the United States to participate in and observe the centen-  
11 nial anniversaries of the nationally significant historic events,  
12 the commemorations of which are provided for herein.

13       SEC. 4. (a) The Commission is authorized to accept  
14 donations of money, property, or personal services; to co-  
15 operate with State, civic, patriotic, hereditary, and historical  
16 groups and with institutions of learning; and to call upon  
17 other Federal departments or agencies for their advice and  
18 assistance in carrying out the purposes of this resolution.

19       (b) The Commission, to such extent as it finds to be  
20 necessary, may, without regard to the laws and procedures  
21 applicable to Federal agencies, procure supplies, services,  
22 and property and make contracts, expend in furtherance  
23 of this resolution funds donated or funds received in pursuance

1 of contracts hereunder, and may exercise those powers that  
2 are necessary to enable it to carry out efficiently and in the  
3 public interest the purposes of this resolution.

4 (c) The National Park Service is designated to provide  
5 all general administrative services.

6 SEC. 5. (a) The Commission may employ, without  
7 regard to civil service laws or the Classification Act of 1949,  
8 an executive director and such employees as may be neces-  
9 sary to carry out its functions.

10 (b) Expenditures of the Commission shall be paid by  
11 the National Park Service as general administrative agent,  
12 which shall keep complete records of such expenditures and  
13 shall account also for all funds received by the Commission.

14 (c) A report shall be submitted to the Congress, pre-  
15 senting the preliminary plans of the Commission not later  
16 than March 1, 1958, in order that further enabling legisla-  
17 tion may be enacted. A final report shall be made to the  
18 Congress no later than March 1, 1960, upon which date the  
19 Commission shall terminate.

20 (d) Any property acquired by the Commission remain-  
21 ing upon its termination may be used by the Secretary of  
22 the Interior for purposes of the National Park System or  
23 may be disposed of as surplus property. The net revenues,

1 after payment of Commission expenses, derived from Com-  
2 mission activities, shall be deposited in the Treasury of the  
3 United States.

4 SEC. 6. (a) The members of the Commission shall serve  
5 without compensation, but shall be furnished transportation  
6 and be reimbursed at not to exceed \$20 per diem, in lieu  
7 of subsistence, while engaged in the discharge of their duties  
8 provided for in this resolution.

9 (b) Service of an individual as a member of the Com-  
10 mission shall not be considered as service or employment  
11 bringing such individual within the provisions of sections 216,  
12 281, 283, 284, 434, or 1914 of title 18 of the United States  
13 Code, or section 190 of the Revised Statutes (5 U. S. C.  
14 99) ; nor shall any member of the Commission by reason  
15 of his status as such be deemed to be an "officer of the Gov-  
16 ernment" within the meaning of the Act of April 27, 1916  
17 (5 U. S. C. 101).

18 SEC. 7. Notwithstanding section 2 of the Act of July 31,  
19 1894 (28 Stat. 205), as amended (5 U. S. C. 62), or sec-  
20 tion 6 of the Act of May 10, 1916 (39 Stat. 120), as  
21 amended (5 U. S. C. 58, 59), the Chairman of the Com-  
22 mission may appoint to, and employ in, any civilian office  
23 or position in the Commission, and pay, any retired com-  
24 missioned officer, or retired warrant officer, of the Army,  
25 Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Coast and Geodetic Sur-

1 vey, or Public Health Service. The retired status, office,  
2 rank, and grade of retired commissioned officers or retired  
3 warrant officers, so appointed or employed and, except as  
4 provided in section 212 of the Act of June 30, 1932 (47  
5 Stat. 406), as amended (5 U. S. C. 59a), any emolument,  
6 perquisite, right, privilege, or benefit incident to or arising  
7 out of any such status, office, rank, or grade, shall be in no  
8 way affected by reason of such appointment to or employ-  
9 ment in, or by reason of service in, or acceptance or holding  
10 of, any civilian office or position in the Commission or the  
11 receipt of the pay thereof.

12 SEC. 8. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated  
13 such funds as may be necessary to carry out the provisions  
14 of this resolution, including an appropriation of not to exceed  
15 \$40,000 to prepare the preliminary report and plans of the  
16 Commission described in section 5 (c).

57TH CONGRESS  
1ST Session

**H. J. RES. 351**

**JOINT RESOLUTION**

To establish a Lincoln Sesquicentennial  
Commission.

By Mr. NIMTZ

JUNE 6, 1957

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary